

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06643 070115Z

42

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

SCCT-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /038 W

----- 014212

O P 070020Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2952

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6643

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: JORDAN HIJACKING

REFS: (A) AMMAN 6604 (B) TRIPOLI 1193 (NOTAL) (C) STATE 244202

1. WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON DETAILS OF REF STATE TEL REQUEST AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.
2. AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO AMMAN ABOUT 1930 LOCAL NOVEMBER 6, LESS THREE HIJACKERS. ONE RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT ONE ITALIAN CITIZEN ELECTED REMAIN BENGHAZI AFTER DISCUSSION WITH ITALIAN CONSUL.
3. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL. HE SAID THREE SECURITY GUARDS HAD BOARDED PLANE AND TOLD PILOT THEY WERE ON SECRET MISSION TO LIBYA (OBJECTIVE WAS TO ASSASSINATE QADHAFI) AND THAT PILOT SHOULD NOT COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE, BUT IF REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN HIS BEHAVIOUR, TO CLAIM HE WAS BEING HIJACKED. PILOT, ACCORDING TO PM, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 06643 070115Z

OBEYED.

4. HE SAID LIBYANS RECEIVED PLANE WELL, REFUELED IT AND ALLOWED TI TO RETURN. PM CLAIMED THAT ONE OF HIJACKERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE EAST BANKERS, WAS IMPLICATED IN SMUGGLING WHICH APPARENTLY IS FAIRLY COMMON AMONG MEMBERS OF SECURITY DETAIL FFOR ALIA. OFFICERS WERE RECRUITED FROM REGULAR ARMY. ONE WAS FULL LIEUTENANT AND OTHER TWO SECOND LIEUTENANTS. (PM WAS LATER OVERHEARD TELLING LT. GEN. RASOUL KILANI, KING'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR, THAT ONE OF HIJACKERS HAD COME TO PRESENT HEAD OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT WITH INFORMATION ON SMUGGLING). MATTER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER WHO APPARENTLY WAS NOT ACTING ON IT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAD NOT TOLD KING ABOUT SMUGGLING PROBLEM.)

5. PM RIFAI CLAIMS THAT FREE OFFICERS MOVEMENT HAS NO KNOWN EXISTENCE OR FOLLOWING IN JORDAN. SAID NAME COMES FROM EARLY NASSER ORGANIZATION AND PLO HAS USED IT OFTEN IN PROPAGANDDA BROADCASTS TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF DISSENSION IN JORDAN. HE IMPLIED MOTIVE WAS PROBABLY MONEY IN CONNECTION WITH SMUGGLING NOT POLITICS. SAID THIS IS WHY NO HOSTAGES TAKEN AND NO DEMANDS MADE BY HIJACKERS.

6. SECOND SOURCE CLOSE TO ALIA CONFIRMS SOME OF DETAILS OF HIJACKERS' ACTIVITY AS RELATED BY PM, BUT SAYS THEY USED WEAPONS, THAT TWO OF THEM BOARDED FLIGHT AFTER SWITCHING DUTIES WITH TWO OTHERS, AND THAT THIRD WAS ON LEAVE, BUT ALLOWED TO BOARD AT LAST MINUTE ON THEORY HE COULD PAY FOR TICKET IN AQABA. THEY HAD TOLD PILOT NOT TO COMMUNICATE, BUT PILOT CONVINCED THEM THAT WITH RADAR, HE SHOULD LET GROUND (IN SYRIA) KNOW WHO HE WAS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE PM PUTTING BEST FACE ON IT, JORDANIANS CLEARLY CHAGRINED THAT SKY MARSHALLS (EAST BANKERS) SHOULD HIJACK PLANE IN ONLY AIR FLEET WE KNOW OF THAT STILL USES SECURITY GUARDS OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL. THEY BELIEVE TIMING FOR DAY OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL NOT ACCIDENTAL. AND WHILE PM MINIMIZES USE OF FORCE AND POLITICAL MOTIVE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 06643 070115Z

IMPLYING FLIGHT FROM CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT, WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF STORY AND AWAIT WITH INTEREST ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT HIJACKERS MIGHT MAKE.  
PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PERSONNEL SECURITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974AMMAN06643  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740319-0625  
**From:** AMMAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741164/aaaaccim.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** (A) AMMAN 6604 (B) TRIPOLI 1193 (NOT, AL) (C) STATE 244202  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JORDAN HIJACKING  
**TAGS:** PINS, EAIR, JO, LY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005